

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on July 8, 2008. Claims 7-13 are currently pending in the application, with claims 7 and 11 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claims 7 and 11 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found at least in paragraphs [0028-0029] and FIG. 1 of the specification. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely claims 7-13 are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter and are patentable over the prior art.

The present invention is directed to a liquid crystal display panel member. The member is formed by bonding a first substrate and a second substrate together. Liquid crystal is sealed in a gap between the first substrate and the second substrate. The member includes an image display cell region and a dummy cell region. The image display cell region is formed in a product area of the first and second substrates. The image display cell region is surrounded by a first sealing material. The dummy cell region is individually formed in a periphery of the image display cell region in a non-product area of the first and second substrates. The dummy cell region is surrounded by a second sealing material. Both the image display cell region and the dummy cell region are filled with liquid crystal. The dummy cell region does not display the image. The dummy cell region and the image display cell region are separated from each other by a distance from the product area to the non-product area. The dummy cell region is used to inspect for gap defects or bubbles in the sealed liquid crystal. The dummy cell region is later cut away from the image display cell region.

Rejection of Claims 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tashiro et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0176439 A1). Claim 7 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the rejection. In particular, claim 7 has been amended to recite “a dummy cell region for inspecting a state where the liquid crystal is sealed, the dummy cell region being individually formed in a periphery of the image display cell region on a non-product area of the first and second substrates, the dummy cell having the liquid crystal sealed therein, the dummy cell region not displaying the image” and “a second sealing material surrounding the dummy sealcell region, wherein the dummy cell region and the image display cell region are separated from each other by a distance from the product area to the non-product area”. Support is found in paragraph [0028-0029] and FIG. 1 of the specification.

With respect to amended claim 1, Tashiro fails to disclose or suggest the recited “a dummy cell region for inspecting a state where the liquid crystal is sealed, the dummy cell region being individually formed in a periphery of the image display cell region on a non-product area of the first and second substrates, the dummy cell having the liquid crystal sealed therein, the dummy cell region not displaying the image” and “a second sealing material surrounding the dummy sealcell region, wherein the dummy cell region and the image display cell region are separated from each other by a distance from the product area to the non-product area”. Referring to paragraph [0413-0418] and FIGs. 80-83 of Tashiro, Tashiro discloses a TFT substrate 320. A first dummy seal 324 surrounds a main seal 322. A second dummy seal 326 is formed in the external periphery of the first dummy seal 324. Main seal 322 surrounds the image display cell. Liquid crystal 328 is dropped inside the main seal 322 and in

the area between the main seal 322 and the first dummy seal 324. Liquid crystal is not sealed in the area between the first dummy seal 324 and the second dummy seal 326. The area between the first dummy seal 324 and the second dummy seal 326 is an air gap. Only the image display cell and the area between the main seal 322 and the first dummy seal 324 contain liquid crystal 328. The area between the first dummy seal 324 and the second dummy seal 326 does not contain liquid crystal 328. Also, the area between the main seal 322 and the first dummy seal 324 are not separated from each other. The liquid crystal 328 sealed inside the first dummy seal 324 is in contact with the main seal 322. There is no distance between the image display cell and the area between the main seal 322 and the first dummy seal 324.

In the present invention, "the dummy cell region and the image display cell region are separated from each other by a distance from the product area to the non-product area". Accordingly, claim 7 as amended is believed to be patentable over Tashiro. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to this claim is respectfully requested and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Claims 8-10 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 7 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given hereinabove.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite "a plurality of dummy cells having liquid crystal sealed therein and having areas different from one another, the dummy cells being formed in a portion other than a portion of the image display cell in a non-product area of the first and second substrates, the dummy cells not displaying an image, wherein the dummy cells and the

image display cell are separated from each other by a distance from the product area to the non-product area. Support is found in paragraph [0028-0029] and FIG. 1 of the specification.

With respect to amended claim 11, Tashiro fails to disclose or suggest the recited “a plurality of dummy cells having liquid crystal sealed therin and having areas different from one another, the dummy cells being formed in a portion other than a portion of the image display cell **in a non-product area of the first and second substrates**, the dummy cells not displaying an image, **wherein the dummy cells and the image display cell are separated from each other by a distance from the product area to the non-product area**. The area between the main seal 322 and the first dummy seal 324 are not separated from each other. The liquid crystal 328 sealed inside the first dummy seal 324 is in contact with the main seal 322. There is no distance between the image display cell and the area between the main seal 322 and the first dummy seal 324.

In the present invention, “**the dummy cells and the image display cell are separated from each other by a distance from the product area to the non-product area**”. Accordingly, claim 11 as amended is believed to be patentable over Tashiro. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to this claim is respectfully requested and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Claims 12-13 depend directly from independent claim 7 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given hereinabove.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 7-13 are now in condition for

allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,

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